Sherwood Valley Groundwater Basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 1-42
- County: Mendocino
- Surface Area: 1,150 acres (approx. 2 square miles)

Basin Boundaries and Hydrology

Sherwood Valley is an elongate, west and northwest-trending basin situated within the Coast Ranges of north central Mendocino County. Sherwood Valley is located approximately 6 miles northwest of Little Lake Valley and 6 miles south of Laytonville Valley. This valley is about 4 miles in length and has a width ranging from about 0.2 to 0.6 miles. The Sherwood Valley Groundwater Basin is defined by the areal extent of Quaternary Alluvium, which is bounded on all sides by bedrock of the Franciscan Formation.

Sherwood Valley is drained to the east by Sherwood Creek and its local unnamed tributaries. Precipitation in this basin ranges from approximately 55 inches on the east side to 69 inches on the west side.

Hydrogeologic Information

Water-Bearing Formations

Significant water-bearing formations that occur in Sherwood Valley include only Quaternary Alluvium. Bedrock of the Franciscan Complex surrounds and underlies the area but due to its consolidated nature, it is essentially non-water bearing except for areas with significant fracture porosity. Information on water-bearing formations and groundwater occurrence was taken from DWR (1958).

Alluvium and River Channel Deposits. These deposits are Holocene in age and consist largely of unconsolidated silts, gravels, clays, and sands. These deposits are exposed in the active river channel and floodplain of Sherwood Creek. Limited data suggests the alluvium in the smaller valleys in Mendocino County averages 10 to 15 feet thick. The maximum thickness of these deposits is unknown. No published well yield data was identified for wells in this area; however, wells drilled in the small alluvial valleys in Mendocino County have proven unproductive because of low permeability. Groundwater in the alluvial deposits is typically unconfined but may be semi-confined locally. No published specific yield data for alluvium in this area are available.

Groundwater Level Trends

No groundwater level data for wells in Sherwood Valley are available and therefore, groundwater levels trends could not be determined.

Groundwater Storage

Groundwater Storage Capacity. No data available.

Groundwater in Storage. No data available.

Groundwater Budget (Type C)

No data available.

Groundwater Quality

Characterization. No published groundwater quality data is available for wells in Sherwood Valley; however, limited surface water quality data collected in 1953 from Sherwood Creek indicate a magnesium-calcium bicarbonate water type with a TDS of 61 ppm (DWR 1958).

Impairments. No data available.

Well Characteristics

	Well yields (gal/min)
Municipal/Irrigation	No data is available.
	Total depths (ft)
Domestic	No data available
Municipal/Irrigation	No data is available.

Active Monitoring Data

Agency	Parameter	Number of wells /measurement frequency
DWR (incl. Cooperators)	Groundwater levels	None
DWR (incl. Cooperators)	Mineral, nutrient, & minor element.	None
Department of Health Services	Coliform, nitrates, mineral, organic chemicals, and radiological.	None

Basin Management

Groundwater management:	No groundwater management plans were identified.
Water agencies	
Public	Mendocino County Water Agency.
Private	Brooktrails Community Services District

Selected Bibliography

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) 1958. Recommended Water Well Construction and Sealing Standards, Mendocino County. Bulletin No. 62 – November.

Errata

Changes made to the basin description will be noted here.